



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB)

Meeting Summary

January 21, 2009 2-4 p.m.

Douglass-Truth Library – Seattle

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Joe Ingram at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

A quorum was declared.

Board Members Present: Joe Ingram (Co-Chair), Kathleen Hadaller, Edith Nelson, Kevin Bernadt

Board Members Excused/Absent: Dorry Elias-Garcia (Co-Chair), Kathy Brasch, Doris Tevaseu

County Staff Present: Marcy Kubbs, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Kelli Larsen, DCHS; Debora Gay, DCHS; Mark Wirschem, Superior Court; Jill Murphy, Superior Court

Guests: Doug Hoople

Review of Meeting Summary

The draft October meeting summary was reviewed and no revisions were identified.

ACTION: The October meeting summary was approved.

Update on #2.8 Procurement Plan (Employment)

Marcy Kubbs provided the board with an update on the #2.8 Procurement Plan. The goal of this initiative is to support people in getting jobs and remaining stable in housing. Jackie MacLean provided an update to the board in January 2008, addressing the specific question about the \$700,000 held aside. King County was asked to participate in the Workforce Development Collaborative (also including Gates Foundation, Medina Foundation, Microsoft Foundation, Seattle Foundation, United Way, Community Colleges), which is pushing education as key to success in employment and housing.

Studies have shown that one year of education provides a huge step up for people. King County would like to put \$700,000 of levy funds aside for this Collaborative. Staff members had hoped for a decision in 2008, but this planning process has taken a little longer. King County staff members are currently working on the proposal and plan to meet with the boards in March 2009.

Update on #4.6 Family Treatment Court

Marcy provided an update on this Strategy, reminding the board that the Human Services Levy previously funded this activity for one year. Through the 2009 King County budget process, the only change to the Levy budget was the directive from the County Council that the Human Services Levy fund the Family Treatment Court again, with \$225,000 annually for 2009-2011.

Mark provided a background overview of the Family Treatment Court program. The program focuses on children who come to the attention of the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) for abuse and neglect issues. Approximately half of the cases are directly related to substance abuse and the majority are homeless or from extremely unstable living conditions.

Family Treatment Court is an alternative to Dependency Court, which utilizes therapeutic court practices. Staff members have found that it is important to encourage clients when they are doing well and the judge-client relationship is very important. The judge provides positive feedback and the program offers other incentives when clients are succeeding. The judge-client relationship is very unique in this situation. A variety of court actors cooperate on this program to provide extensive wrap-around services to these clients with great need.

There are sanctions (responses) implemented for clients who miss or fail urine analysis tests or for other setbacks to the client's progress. Family Treatment Court tries to provide clear guidelines and markers so that clients know how well they are doing.

The program advocates this approach as the best way to bring treatment and housing into the justice system and examine the root causes of these problems. The program is now in the third of a three-year evaluation conducted by the University of Washington. Thus far, the reports have been very positive.

The Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Plan (MIDD) is also contributing funds for this activity, and the Superior Court leveraged an additional \$300,000 by working with DSHS to share legal costs.

The primary goals of Family Treatment Court are:

- To ensure that children have safe and permanent homes within permanency planning guidelines or sooner;
- To ensure that families of color have outcomes from dependency cases similar to families not of color;

- To ensure that parents are better able to care for themselves and their children and seek resources to do so; and
- That the cost to society of dependency cases involving substances is reduced.

Jill highlighted the demographics of people served by this program, as well as the 2008 outcomes for Family Treatment Court.

Q: Do the social workers focusing on placing Native American kids into guardianships with family members before adoption is explored?

A: The staff members work as a team and we will follow up to ensure that we are working within the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Q: What is the difference between homeless clients and housed clients, in terms of the outcomes?

A: We will explore that in our evaluation and get back to you with our findings.

Q: What kind of follow-up is conducted?

A: Once clients are done with the program, they are not tracked. There is an alumni program and they often stay in touch, but it is all voluntary.

Committee Reports

- None

Co-Chair's Report

- None

King County Staff Report

- The mobile medical service staff members have started exploring service areas in South King County, and have hosted four clinics serving about 25 people in Kent, Auburn, Federal Way, and Tukwila.
 - Edie wondered if the van could visit the tent city in Shoreline and other tent cities
 - Kathy wondered about what type of outreach was being conducted to notify the communities about the presence of this service
- Joe Ingram, Marcy Kubbs, and the board members thanked Kelli Larsen for her service to the board and the Veterans and Human Services Levy and presented a thank you gift and card.
- Board re-appointments are in process and staff members are working to complete these confirmations as soon as possible.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Edie made an announcement about Indian Child Welfare Awareness Day on January 28, 2009 in Olympia.
- Joe announced that VetsEdge assisted 62 people on the street, and approximately half of them were placed in housing.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

- None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.